



# Resources for Archival Research on POW/Missing Personnel

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# ARCHIVAL RESEARCH MISSION



"To continue the worldwide search for historical documents that may contribute to case resolution for U.S. POW/MIAs from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War."

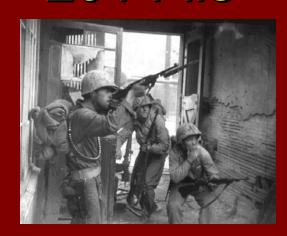
#### HISTORICAL SOURCES **Unit Records** Official and Combat **Histories** Air Field Search Reports Cases War Diaries and Combat After-action **Enemy Records** Records Records from Reports the Field Witness Statements from **Immediate** other sources **MISSING** Search and **SERVICEMAN** Recovery Graves Attempts Registration Records Personnel Pre-service Records Medical / Dental Records **American Graves** Registration Service Records "201" Personnel Individual Deceased File Personnel Files



# Individual Personnel File "201 File"









This file records duty stations and medical treatments, from enlistment (or commissioning) to end of service.

Location: National Personnel Records Center St. Louis



# 1973 National Personnel Records Center Fire Destroyed:



- U.S. Army 80% of records from 1912 to 1960
- ➤ U.S. Air Force 75% of records from 1947 - 1964
- > NO DUPLICATE copies exist





#### Individual Deceased Personnel File





This file records details of the loss incident and subsequent search efforts





### Records from the Field





Unique Sources and Research Strategies for each Branch of Service

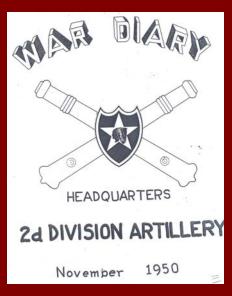


### **ARMY RECORDS**





- Command reports (National Archives)
- Morning reports (St. Louis)
- Unit journals & diaries (National Archives)







# AIR FORCE RECORDS



- Air field search cases (Korean War)
- Unit histories (weekly or monthly)





## **NAVY RECORDS**







- Ship's logs
- Casualty Assistance Branch records



# MARINE CORPS RECORDS





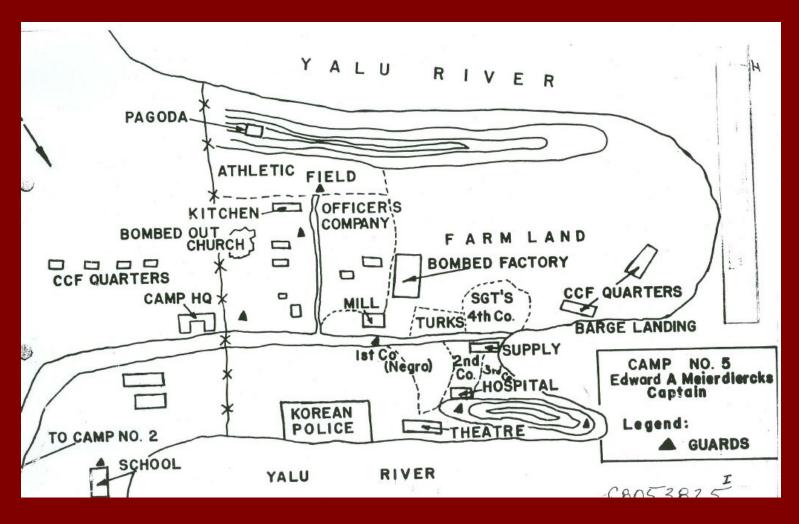


- Operational Records
- Post-combat interviews



### Reports from US POWs







#### **GRAVES REGISTRATION FILES**



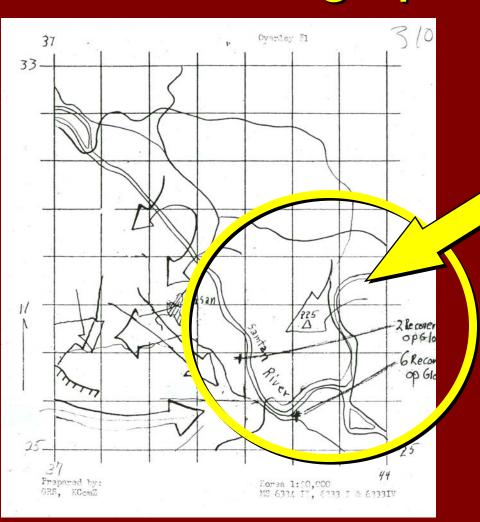


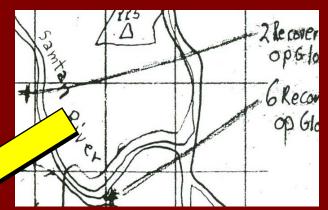
- Field search cases
- Field search reports
- Mortuary records
- Unknown "X" files



# Field Search Report: Geographic Clues









# Dental chart for unidentified remains



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### **U.S. Record Repositories**



National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri

#### Records available include:

- Individual Personnel Files ("201 Files")
- Morning Reports
- Payroll Records



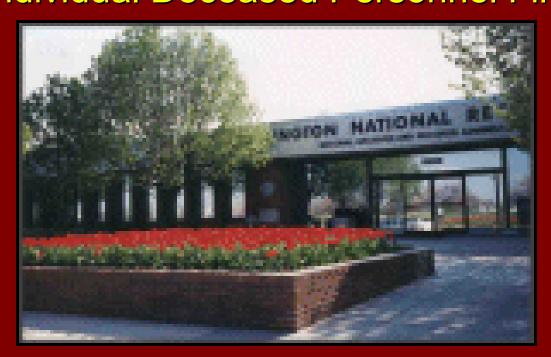


### **U.S. Record Repositories**



Washington National Records Center, Suitland, Maryland

-Individual Deceased Personnel Files



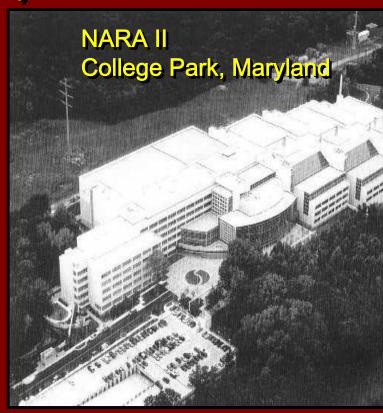


### **U.S. Record Repositories**



#### ➤ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

- Organizational History Files
- Command Reports
- Daily Journal Files
- Honors and Awards
- Ships Logs
- Unit Photographs and Film





# Research Challenges







# ARCHIVAL RESEARCH CHALLENGES



Number & Geographic Distribution of Records Repositories

Sheer Volume of Material

- Poor or No Indexing
- Lost, Missing, Misfiled, Burnt or Destroyed records



# Public Data (available online)



- Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) Database
- Korean War Aircraft Loss Database (KORWALD)
- Korean War Official Histories Center for Military History website